

Message Text

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TAGS: OREP (EAGLETON, THOMAS F.) PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJECT: SENATOR EAGLETON VISITS CYPRUS

1. SENATOR EAGLETON PAID 22 HOUR VISIT TO CYPRUS DECEMBER 28-29 AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS. SENATOR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SON AND AHEPA PAST-PRESIDENT SAMUEL NAKIS OF ST. LOUIS. FOLLOWING ARRIVAL THREE HOURS LATE DUE TO WEATHER, SENATOR TOOK MUDDY TOUR OF LARNACA AREA REFUGEE TENT CAMPS, MINGLED WITH REFUGEES, VIEWED DAMAGE FROM WINTER STORMS. IN AFTERNOON, SENATOR MET WITH FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES, THEN HAD 35 MINUTE PRIVATE TALK WITH MAKARIOS.

2. MAKARIOS MEETING: ACCORDING TO EAGLETON, MAKARIOS EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ON RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS. GOC WAS READY TO REENTER TALKS IN GOOD FAITH BUT COULD FIND NO SIGN TURKS WILLING TO MAKE COMPROMISES WHICH WOULD PERMIT ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT. AGREEMENT ALLOWING RETURN OF "ONLY THREE OR FOUR PERCENT" COULD NEVER BE SIGNED; GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD RATHER HANG ON INDEFINITELY. IN MAKARIOS' WORDS, "I PREFER THE PRESENT BAD STATUS QUO TO A FUTURE BAD SETTLEMENT." EAGLETON TOLD MAKARIOS HE WAS CONVINCED TIME WAS RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, THAT U.S. (HE INCLUDED CONGRESS, PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER) WAS

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PREPARED TO PUSH HARD FOR PROGRESS, AND THAT IT WAS IN

INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES TO ACHIEVE EQUITABLE SOLUTION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM IN 1976. IN RESPONSE, MAKARIOS REITERATED HIS SKEPTICISM REGARDING TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS: EAGLETON MADE STATEMENTS TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL AT LARNACA, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH MAKARIOS, AND ON DEPARTURE. HE STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT ALTHOUGH OTHER COUNTRIES COULD HELP MEDIATE, IN LONG RUN "600,000 CYPRIOTS, BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH, MUST THEMSELVES WORK OUT SETTLEMENT." HE GAVE SOLID SUPPORT TO RENEWED INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS UNDER UNSYG; SAID MEN OF GOODWILL EVERYWHERE HAD TO WORK FOR HONORABLE SOLUTION; PRAISED CLERIDES WHILE NOTING THAT DENKTASH HAD SO FAR AVOIDED TALKS "FOR REASONS WHICH NONE OF US CAN UNDERSTAND"; AND PLEDGED CONTINUED SUPPORT OF AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR CYPRIOT CAUSE. EAGLETON ALSO HAD PRAISE FOR MAKARIOS, DESCRIBING HIM TO THE PRESS AFTER THEIR MEETING AS "ONE OF THE REALLY GREAT STATESMEN OF THE WORLD."

4. EAGLETON, IMMEDIATELY ON ARRIVAL, DENIED REPORTS THAT HE WAS CARRYING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD OR SECRETARY KISSINGER, OBSERVING THAT "I WOULD BE A MOST UNLIKELY MESSENGER FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN VERY FAR APART IN THE SITUATION" BUT SAID HE INTENDED TO TALK WITH UNDERSECRETARY SISCO "WHO HAPPENS TO BE A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND AND FOR WHOM I HAVE GREAT RESPECT." ON PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT REPORT TO CONGRESS, EAGLETON SAID "ALL OF US WHO READ REPORT WERE VERY, VERY DISAPPOINTED", ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTION AND THAT SITUATION REMAINED AS IT WAS IN SUMMER 1974.

5. CLERIDES HOSTED DINNER DECEMBER 28. GUESTS INCLUDED AMB/DCM, GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES, MINLABOR SPANOS (WHO IS IN CHARGE OF REFUGEE RELIEF PROGRAM), MININT VENIAMIN, MINFIN PATSALIFES, RED CROSS PRESIDENT SOULIOTI AND GREEK CHARGE ZACHARAKIS.

6. PRESS REACTION: GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS GAVE EXPECTED FANFARE TREATMENT TO EAGLETON VISIT, PRAISING HIM AS GREEK CYPRUS' STAUNCHEST SUPPORTER, ACCLAIMING HIS "PRINCIPLED STAND", AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HE WOULD INTENSIFY EFFORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN CONGRESS FOR JUST CYPRUS SOLUTION ON BASIS OF UN RESOLUTIONS. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS WAS UNIFORMLY CRITICAL OF EAGLETON VISIT, SINGLING OUT HIS "ONE-SIDED" AND "FANATIC" SUPPORT OF THE GREEKS AND HIS ALLEGED FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SUFFERING OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST 12 YEARS. TURK CYPRIOT SPOKESMAN DISMISSED SENATOR AS "PARROT OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS", CHARGED THAT HE HAD DELIBERATELY SIDED WITH GREEKS WITHOUT BOTHERING TO

CONSIDER TURKISH CASE, AND CONCLUDED THAT "IT WAS OF NO USE
TO DWELL ON THE SENATOR'S STATEMENTS."
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